(b) Adequate traffic is not available on the proposed routes.

Increasing the number of coaches in certain trains

†1300. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been submitted before West-Central railway for increasing the number of coaches in the trains i.e. Kota-Jaipur-Shamgarh train No. 193/194, Dehradoon Express train No. 9019A/9020A, Kota-Bhopal train No. 491/492 and Awadh Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when action would be taken on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Load of 9037/9038 Bandra-Gorakhpur and 9039/9040 Bandra-Muzaffarpur Avadh Expresses is being increased from 19 to 31 coaches from 15.9.2006. Augmentation of 193/194 Jaipur-Shamgarh Passenger, 9019A/9020A New Delhi-Neemuch Link Express and 491/492 Bhopal-Jodhpur Passenger is not feasible at present due to lack of commercial justification and also paucity of coaches.

Pension funds

1301. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of projected outgo on account of pensionary charges for the year 2006-07;

(b) whether there would be adequate residual balance in the Pension Fund for discharging pensionary liabilities during the year 2006-07;

(c) what action has been taken on the proposal to have an acturial assessment done for railway pensioners to assess the future liability on pensionary charges; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, whether any appropriation has been made to the Pension Fund in the past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The outgo on account of pensionary charges has been assessed at Rs. 7900 cr. in the Budget Estimates for 2006-07 and an equivalent amount has been provided in the Railway Pension Fund to meet this liability.

(c) and (d) An actuarial assessment study was awarded by Railways and the report submitted by the actuary is under examination. At present, it is seen that the appropriation to Railway Pension Fund is sufficiently adequate to meet with pensionary liabilities on a year-to-year basis.

Package for rail connectivity in North-East Region

1302. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any special package towards rail connectivity in respect of North-East Region;

(b) if so, the details of the concept in this direction; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) There is no special package as such. However, a number of projects are in progress in the North East Region having a throwforward of over Rs. 6000 crore as on 0.1.04.2006. As per the policy, 10% of budgetary support is being allocated in the North East Region. Further, three projects in the region have been declared as National projects for which part funds are being provided as an additionality to normal Railways Plan.

North Bengal-Sikkim Rail Line

1303. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the proposal for rail-lines for North Bengal into Sikkim has been pending for years together, China is going